

## MEAN LAKE LEVELS DURING JANUARY, 1927

BY UNITED STATES LAKE SURVEY

[Detroit, Mich., February 4, 1927]

The following data are reported in the "Notice to Mariners" of the above date:

Data	Lakes <sup>1</sup>			
	Superior	Michigan and Huron	Erie	Ontario
Mean level during January, 1927:				
Above mean sea level at New York.....	<i>Feet</i> 601.44	<i>Feet</i> 578.20	<i>Feet</i> 571.13	<i>Feet</i> 245.28
Above or below—				
Mean stage of December, 1926.....	−0.20	−0.05	−0.33	−0.14
Mean stage of January, 1926.....	+0.99	+0.82	+1.09	+1.00
Average stage for January, last 10 years.....	−0.30	−1.25	−0.22	+0.20
Highest recorded January stage.....	−1.34	−4.47	−2.42	−2.32
Lowest recorded January stage.....	+0.99	+0.82	+1.09	+1.48
Average departure (since 1860) of the January level from the December level.....	−0.25	−0.11	−0.06	−0.01

<sup>1</sup> Lake St. Clair's level: In January, 1927, 572.88 feet.

## EFFECT OF WEATHER ON CROPS AND FARMING OPERATIONS, JANUARY, 1927

By J. B. KINCER

*General summary.*—The weather during the first two weeks of the month was mostly favorable for farming operations, although some damage by frost was reported in the Gulf coast area and in California, and some damaging floods occurred in Tennessee and adjoining districts. Toward the end of the second week colder weather overspread the eastern part of the country and this change was favorable in checking the too rapid advance of fruit buds in the Southeast. The snow cover was light to fairly good over most areas from the Ohio Valley northward and eastward and furnished protection to grain fields, but the lower Missouri Valley and Great Plains were mostly bare of snow. The continued cold weather during the third week made conditions unfavorable for outdoor operations and the heavy snows in some North Central States interfered with marketing farm products. Low temperatures damaged hardy truck crops in the southern winter truck area during this period, but conditions in the more western States were mostly favorable.

A marked reaction to abnormally warm weather during the last part of the month aided crops in the Southeast in making rapid recovery from the effects of the freeze and enabled field work to progress rapidly with an unusually large amount of plowing for corn, cotton, and other spring crops accomplished. In more northern sections work was hindered by muddy fields and continued rains, and in the Northwest cold weather was unfavorable for livestock and necessitated heavy feeding. Precipitation continued deficient in the Southeast, with some sections receiving the lightest precipitation for January in more

than 40 years. Except for the scanty rainfall, conditions were generally favorable in this area.

Vegetation was abnormally advanced at the close of the month in west Gulf sections, but in the northwestern Cotton Belt the fields continued muddy and little of the remaining crop could be picked. In the interior valley States the thaw removed most of the snow cover and the ground was generally bare, except in the upper Mississippi Valley. West of the Rocky Mountains conditions were generally favorable, with a considerable increase in the snow pack at higher elevations.

*Small grains.*—At the beginning of the month there was little snow cover over much of the winter wheat belt, although a fairly good covering was reported in the more northern States east of the Great Plains. The soil was becoming too dry again in western Kansas, but mild, sunny weather was favorable in the western wheat area. Apparently little harm occurred to wheat in western areas from the cold wave; eastern sections continued with mostly adequate snow protection. The cold weather was unfavorable in the Middle Atlantic States, and growth of winter cereals in Southern States was checked. Toward the latter part of the month considerable of the snow cover east of the Mississippi River was removed by warm weather, and at its close only the north central section of the wheat belt had an appreciable layer of snow. In parts of the Ohio Valley there were complaints of flood damage, and thawing and freezing was unfavorable in the middle Atlantic area.

*Corn and cotton.*—Corn gathering made good progress the first part of January in the trans-Mississippi area and husking was resumed in Iowa, while improved conditions for cribbing prevailed in some sections east of the Mississippi River. Continued mild and dry conditions were favorable for husking in the interior valleys, and shelling and marketing were brisk in the upper Mississippi Valley section.

While there was little precipitation and much sunshine in the northwestern Cotton Belt, where considerable cotton was in the fields at the beginning of the month, the soil continued too wet for harvest and picking made slow progress. Picking made fair advance later in the month, but much remained in the fields.

*Miscellaneous crops.*—Pastures showed practically no improvement in the Southeast, but in more western sections the range continued in mostly satisfactory condition. Livestock were able to range freely in the northern Great Plains area and the weather was generally favorable in the great western grazing sections, except for some suffering during the latter part.

Truck was damaged somewhat by frost during the first decade, and later there were two severe cold waves in Florida, with rather extensive injury reported. There was also some damage to winter truck in the coast sections of the south Atlantic and east Gulf portions. Mild weather the latter part of the month enabled truck to make rapid recovery from the effects of the freeze and that planted after the frost made rapid advance. Citrus was seriously damaged in northern and central Florida, but improved later.